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सचिव

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भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
Government of India
Department of Health and Family Welfare
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
D.O No.2022335/2021/Immunization
2nd July,2021

Dear Colleague,

Vaccination is one of the crucial intervention to effectively fight the Covid pandemic. The COVID-19 vaccination drive was first launched on January 16th, 2021, with health-care workers and later expanded to include frontline workers and population at higher risk of morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccination has since 1st May,2021 been expanded to include all citizens from 18 years of age, thereby making more than 75% of population eligible for vaccination, of which nearly half are women.

2. The vaccination of lactating women has already been approved but the vaccination of the pregnant women had been under examination of the technical experts. COVID-19 infection during pregnancy may result in rapid deterioration of health of pregnant women and might affect the fetus also. Experts believe that the benefits of vaccination to the pregnant women outweigh the potential risks from vaccination. The matter has been deliberated in a comprehensive manner by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) and the NEGVAC in a series of meetings conducted on the subject. The COVID-19 vaccination of pregnant women has now been recommended by these expert groups.

3. A National Consultation on the matter, held on the 21st June 2021 involved the representatives of the State governments, medical colleges, FOGSI, NGOs & Partner organizations to build a common consensus regarding COVID-19 vaccination of pregnant women and move forward with a collective approach. The stakeholders unanimously welcomed the recommendation of NTAGI to vaccinate pregnant women with COVID-19 vaccines and expressed their readiness to work together with the Gol to protect pregnant women from COVID-19 and create awareness around the importance of COVID-19 vaccination of pregnant women.

4. **Based on the recommendations of expert committees and wider stakeholder's support the Ministry of Health and Family welfare has approved vaccination of pregnant women against COVID-19.**

5. A guidance note to assist the States/UTs in operationalizing the COVID vaccination programme for pregnant women is being enclosed. This guidance also provides information to be used to orient programme managers and service providers and frontline health workers during Antenatal care to counsel the pregnant women and their family about the importance of COVID19 vaccination during pregnancy. The state/UTs should also ensure sensitization of vaccination teams in the Government and in the private CVCs so that they are aware of the current policy related to COVID vaccination for pregnant women. An orientation on these guidelines will be organized by MoHFW shortly.

6. I request you to kindly inform the concerned officials to undertake necessary steps to widely disseminate this important initiative of COVID-19 vaccination of the pregnant women amongst programme managers, vaccinators, community and above all the pregnant women.

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7. All required steps for the vaccination of pregnant women as per the enclosed guidelines may be taken up.

I look forward to your unstinted support in this new milestone in the largest immunization drive.

Warm Regards.

Yours Sincerely



(Rajesh Bhushan)

Encl : as above

**Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary (Health)
All States / UTs**

Copy to : Mission Director, National Health Mission of all States/UTs